

[0020] Also, in order to encourage the child to enjoy using the method and system, the auto-recording device is incorporated into a doll that the child carries with him or her as they complete the activities that are recorded in the journal. A preferred embodiment of the present invention is centered around a traveling journal, which is used to record activities taken by a child while on a field trip, or perhaps on a family vacation. Although the following embodiment described will be centered upon a traveling journal embodiment, it is understood that other forms of journaling activities may be used with the present invention, and the embodiment described is not intended to restrict the definition of the invention to that embodiment.

[0021] One embodiment of the present invention comprises a picture book describing an exemplary journalizing activity by one or more characters. FIG. 1 shows the cover page 2 of a picture book 1 that features two characters known as Hiking Harry™ and Traveling Tillie™. Thus, this picture book 1 may be desired for use with both male and female students, or wherever a student may prefer to relate to either a male or female character. The picture book 1 shows the graphical representations of the Hiking Harry™ character 4 and Traveling Tillie™ character 6 as they complete trips to various attractions in their local communities. Referring now to FIG. 2, page 8 of the book shows a graphical illustration of the characters 4 and 6 at locations within the local community, preferably well-known locations such as a museum or an amusement park. Written text 10 describes the activities that the characters took part in at these destinations and also what they enjoyed about these destinations themselves, such as information that a teacher would want her student to provide in any journal describing field trip activities or vacation activities. It is intended that the picture book 1 serve as more or less an instructional guide to the student to show the student what the student should be doing on a field trip, and also to provide an example of how to record their activities in a journal format on such a field trip or vacation.

[0022] A second component of the method and system is an audio recording device. Referring now to FIG. 3, perspective views of a Traveling Tillie™ doll 7 containing an audio recording device 13 are shown. The doll 7 is preferably a soft child's doll wearing a backpack 12 within which is contained an audio microcassette recorder 13. The microcassette recorder 13 has a built-in microphone (not shown), as is typical and well-known, which can be used by a user to record sounds, dialog or spoken words. A separate remote microphone (not shown) may optionally be used, connected to said microcassette recorder and either held by the doll in her hand, or perhaps to be used and held by the child herself. It is intended that the child will carry the doll with him on the vacation or field trip and, whenever the child has an observation that he feels might be helpful, he may easily press the recording button and record that observation contemporaneously. This is important, in that the child is enabled to make their observations while they are actually taking part in the activity, rather than waiting until the child returns home and relying upon the child's memory to remember all the significant events of the day in a short period of time. It is believed that by contemporaneously recording these events, the student will make many more observations than the student might otherwise make at the end of the day.

[0023] Alternative recording devices may include computer-related devices, such as an audio recorder configured to import recordings into computer software or hardware, wherein the software or hardware device may translate audio dictation into word processing text. Examples of such systems are the Dragon Naturally Speaking® system by Lerner & Hauspie, Inc., and the ViaVoice® system by I.B.M., Inc. Similarly, digital recording technology may be used to convert analog audio dictation and sound files into digital files that may be readily transferred into a computer for dictation software applications, or transferred to a remote computer through a computer network, or the Internet. Such digital files may also be freely sent through the Internet to other parties, such as a teacher, a friend, or a relative. The preceding list is not intended to be exhaustive, and other applications will be readily apparent to one skilled in the art.

[0024] It is also preferred that the student will have a camera with him or her on this vacation or activity to take pictures of the different locations and activities in which they participated. FIG. 12 shows a typical camera 17 that may be used with the present invention. The camera 17 may be part of the present system or method, or it may be a suggested user option. The camera 17 may be a conventional film camera, or it may be a digital camera. A small camera (not shown) may also be incorporated into the dolls 7 or 9, such as a digital camera. Although it is preferred that the child take pictures, it is not necessary, and an adult or other person may take pictures of the activities. Also, postcards or other pictures may instead or additionally be purchased as souvenirs and referred to by the student as they recall their day and recall their activities into the microcassette recorder.

[0025] Table I lists exemplary dimensions of the Hiking Harry™ and Traveling Tillie™ dolls shown in FIG. 3 and 4. These dimensions are provided as an example of embodiments that are preferable for use by a child with this method and system. However, it is understood that other dimensions are readily usable in this method and system. Similarly, materials may be used, other than the soft materials shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, for the doll embodiments. And although the doll embodiments described in the present invention have detachable clothing 14, it is not necessary that detachable clothing 14 be utilized.

TABLE I

Hiking Harry's Measurements	
Length of Body Including Head:	16 inches
Width of Body:	4½ inches
Circumference of Body:	8½ inches
Length of Arm:	5½ inches
Arm Span:	13 inches
Circumference of Arm:	3 inches
Length of Leg:	8 inches
Circumference of Leg:	4½ inches
Circumference of Head:	10 inches
Foot from Heal to Toe:	3½ inches
Traveling Tillie's Measurements	
Length of Body Including Head:	15½ inches
Width of Body:	4¼ inches
Circumference of Body:	8½ inches
Length of Arm:	5 inches
Arm Span:	13½ inches
Circumference of Arm:	3 inches
Length of Leg:	7½ inches
Circumference of Leg:	5 inches
Circumference of Head:	9¼ inches
Foot from Heal to Toe:	3 inches